and other war capabilities are indigenous and 70 per cent are imported; if not; what is the percentage of indigenous manufactured items *vis-a-vis* the imported;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the supplying Nations are forcing on us obsolete and outdated material;

(c) whether it is a fact that requirement of Air Force training Jet aircraft has been pending for long time despite major mishaps; if so; what is the reason for the delay; and

(d) whether it is a fact that out of total import; 70 per cent is procured from erstwhile Russian block countries; if so; the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) 10-year national mission for enhancing self reliance in defence system was launched in 1995. At that time; it was estimated that 30 per cent of annual defence acquisitions were made from indigenous sources and 70 per cent were through imports.

(b) No; Sir.

(c) Commercial negotiations with the shortlisted vendors of Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) aircraft are in progress. The acquisition of the AJT has been projected in the Ninth Plan.

(d) A majority of imported defence systems are of erstwhile Russian block origin. However, the exact percentage varies on year to year basis depending upon the specific requirements.

R & D Defence Budget

2363. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total percentage of defence budget for research and development;

(b) whether it is inclusive of development of missiles; and

(c) what is the allocation for other developments such as Automatic Rifles; ammunitions etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) The budget allocation for Defence Research & Development is 5.24 per cent of total Defence budget for the year 1997-98.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The yearly budget allocation for specific Defence R & D projects is decided based upon the specific milestones planned to be achieved during the year. It is not in national security interest to disclose the yearly budget allocation for each of such R&D Projects.

Production of defence aircrafts

2364. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to increase the production of defence aircrafts;

(b) whether the aircrafts are being manufactured only by HAL or in collaboration with any foreign company; and

(c) if so, the target set for the production of aircrafts for the country's defence by 2000 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) and (b) Production capacities for various types of aircraft have been set up at M/s. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), to meet the futuristic requirements of our Armed Forces, para military forces and the likely civilian requirements.

Aircraft such as Kiran MK-II, HPT 32 and the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) are of HAL's own design and manufacture, while aircraft such as Jaguar, Mig-27M, Dornier-228 Aircraft and Cheetah/Chetak Helicopters are manufactured under licence from foreign companies/countries. HAL is the production agency for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) being developed by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA). HAL will also be the production agency for licenced manufacture of SU-30MK-III, depending on the results of the feasibility report. HAL has also received some preliminary responses to its proposal in establishing co-production of 50 seater aircraft.

(c) In the interests of security production targets of aircraft cannot be divulged.

Helicopter shot down in Assam

2365. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the militant gibups that shot down the helicopter carrying Major General Kashev Singh near Kohima in Assam;

(b) whether some rocket was used to shot down the helicopter; and

(c) the sources of rockets and other arms that have come in the possession of the militants in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Army Hqrs. the helicopter crashed due to inclement weather and not on account of shooting down by any militant group.

(c) The militants in Assam are reported to be getting arms from various sources including other militants groups operating in the region.

Induction of ALH into armed forces

2366. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the probable date by when the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) is likely to be inducted into the armed forces;

(b) the special features of the ALH;

(c) whether the ALH will be used by all the three wings of the armed forces; and

(d) whether ALH would be sold in the international weaponry market also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) The indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) is likely to be inducted into the Armed Forces during 1998-99.

(b) ALH has several special features as given in the attached statement. (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. After initial induction in the Indian Armed Forces, ALH would be sold in the international weaponry market also.

Statement

Special features of ALH

The ALH is a multirole Helicopter which can carry 12 passengers with 2 Pilots in normal configuration. It can carry 14 passengers in high density configuration, whereas for VIPs six seats are provided. It is usable for basic training due to dual control system and duplicate flight instruments. Its Cargo Pallet